Edibles provided to Jawans

†*248. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item captioned, "Jawano ko Khilaya ja raha hai mrit pashuon ka maans", which appeared in 'Nav Bharat Times', New Delhi, dated the 29th May 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The Government is aware about the news-item captioned "Jawano ko Khilaya ja raha hai mrit pashuon ka maans" which appeared in Nav Bharat Times, New Delhi dated 29.5.2002.

The news report relates to an incident in Supply Depot, Delhi Cantonment, where a supplier had attempted to mix dead fowls with live birds during delivery of fowls to the depot. Only live and healthy animals/birds are slaughtered for supply to Defence Forces. Proper sorting and segregation of the live animals/birds is carried out before slaughter. The animals are inspected by a Veterinary Officer both before and after slaughter. Thereafter, the carcasses are duly stamped fit for issue.

During inspection and segregation on 13.5.2002, the attempt of the supplier was thwarted by the vigilant Supply Depot staff. Action has been initiated to ban the firm or to remove it from the list of approved contractors of the Army Supply Corps.

Jaish-E-Mohammad activities in Uttaranchal

†*249. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Jaish-e-Mohammad and a few other terrorist outfits have started spreading its tentacles to Uttaranchal also;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.